

Karen Mouritsen  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States Office  
20 M Street SE, Suite 950  
Washington, D.C. 20003

2017 FEB 14 A 11:43  
BLM

**Re: *Protest of the March 23, 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Wayne National Forest***

Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned March 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe, Noble, and Washington Counties, Ohio (DOI-BLM-Eastern States-0030-2016-0002-EA) ("EA"), pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. I formally protest the inclusion of each of the 21 parcels, covering 1,186 acres in the Wayne National Forest's Marietta Unit in Monroe County, Ohio:

Parcel #: ES-001-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058226 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-002-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058227 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-003-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058228 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-004-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058229 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-005-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058230 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-006-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058231 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-007-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058232 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-008-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058233 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-009-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058234 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-010-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058235 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-011-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058236 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-012-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058237 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-015-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058240 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-018-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058243 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-020-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058249 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-022-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058251 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-023-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058252 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-025-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058254 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-026-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058255 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-027-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058256 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-028-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058257 ACQ

## **PROTEST**

### **I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests**

This Protest is filed on behalf of:

Julie Kronenberger  
134 E Royal Forest Blvd  
Columbus, OH 43214

\*(Please do not make my contact information public)

My interest in the lease/sale of this land is four-fold:

1. I have friends and family that live in and around Marietta Ohio. I am concerned about dangerous frack waste water leaking into private water wells or the Ohio River and contaminating drinking water for those living in the area, including my friends and family.
2. Ohio's only National Forest is for public recreational use. Many people spend time in the Wayne to hunt, camp, fish, hike, run, mountain bike. I visit Marietta about once a month and I look forward to using Wayne National Forest when I am there. It is peaceful and quiet and deeply rejuvenating. It is a living ecosystem and refuge that would be tragically and senselessly ruined by the proposed fracking.
3. Methane gas leaked by fracking wells is very dangerous for the climate. Methane gas (CH<sub>4</sub>) is at least 86X more heat sequestering than CO<sub>2</sub>. This can have dramatic effects on our ozone and planet.
4. If a full Environmental Impact Statement and analysis had been completed it would say that the Wayne is a necessary carbon sink that should not be disturbed in light of Global Warming and Catastrophic Climate Change. Global Warming and Catastrophic Climate Change are real and extensively data verified. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and renewable energy infrastructure are the imperative now. We have taken those measures at our household.

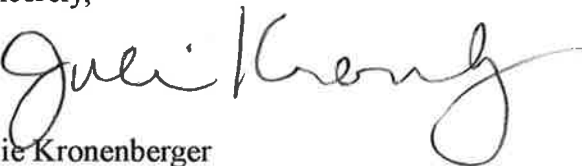
### **II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:**

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

1. A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not completed. This is Ohio's only National Forest and we owe it to all Ohioans who use the forest, to those who could be affected by contaminated drinking water and to the animal species that live there, to thoroughly consider the implications that fracking could have.

2. The Environmental Assessment (EA) that was completed was based on outdated forest laws that were created before horizontal hydraulic fracturing existed in the area. Rushing a decision to horizontal frack in a National Forest, without thoughtful consideration, should not be allowed.
3. The Wayne NF has one Federally endangered plant species- the **running buffalo clover** and is also home to the Bald Eagle (threatened) and the Indiana Bat (endangered).
4. And, perhaps most importantly, there was one public meeting held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Marietta, Ohio before the 2016-2017 auctions began. I have talked with Marietta residents. Many did not know about this meeting, did not have a chance to make their opinions heard and are now outraged that the sale/lease of their public forest land is taking place. There should have been more outreach to the entire community, not just private land owners near Wayne, to inform them of such a meeting.

Sincerely,

  
Julie Kronenberger